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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~A ladder filter according to Claim 1, wherein A~~
ladder filter comprising series arm resonators and parallel arm resonators; wherein
the series arm resonators and the parallel arm resonators are alternately
connected to each other;

each of the series arm resonators is a first series arm resonator connected in
parallel to an inductor or a second series arm resonator not connected to an inductor; a
relationship of $f_{sr1} < f_{sr2}$ is satisfied, where f_{sr1} represents the resonant frequency of
the first series arm resonator and f_{sr2} represents the resonant frequency of the second
series arm resonator; and

a relationship of $f_{sr1} < f_{pa} < f_{sr2}$ is satisfied, where f_{pa} represents the anti-resonant frequency of the parallel arm resonators.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~A ladder filter according to Claim 1, wherein A~~
ladder filter comprising series arm resonators and parallel arm resonators; wherein
the series arm resonators and the parallel arm resonators are alternately
connected to each other;

each of the series arm resonators is a first series arm resonator connected in
parallel to an inductor or a second series arm resonator not connected to an inductor; a
relationship of $f_{sr1} < f_{sr2}$ is satisfied, where f_{sr1} represents the resonant frequency of
the first series arm resonator and f_{sr2} represents the resonant frequency of the second
series arm resonator; and

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a relationship of $f_{sa2} < f_{sa1'}$ is satisfied, where $f_{sa1'}$ represents the anti-resonant frequency of the first series arm resonator, the anti-resonant frequency of the first series arm resonator is shifted by the operation of the inductor, which is connected in parallel with the first series arm resonator, and f_{sa2} represents the anti-resonant frequency of the second series arm resonator.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~A ladder filter according to Claim 1, wherein A~~
ladder filter comprising series arm resonators and parallel arm resonators; wherein
the series arm resonators and the parallel arm resonators are alternately
connected to each other;

each of the series arm resonators is a first series arm resonator connected in
parallel to an inductor or a second series arm resonator not connected to an inductor; a
relationship of $f_{sr1} < f_{sr2}$ is satisfied, where f_{sr1} represents the resonant frequency of
the first series arm resonator and f_{sr2} represents the resonant frequency of the second
series arm resonator; and

a relationship of $f_{pa} \times 0.995 < (f_{sr1} + f_{sr2})/2 < f_{pa} \times 1.01$ is satisfied, where f_{pa} represents the anti-resonant frequency of the parallel resonators.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A ladder filter according to Claim 42, wherein the ~~resonant frequency pitch~~
pitch of the first series arm resonator is different from the ~~resonant frequency pitch~~
pitch of the second series arm resonator.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A ladder filter according to Claim 42, further comprising a package, wherein the inductor connected in parallel to the first series arm resonator is arranged in the package.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A ladder filter according to Claim 42, wherein the each resonator is a one-terminal pair surface acoustic wave resonator including a

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piezoelectric substrate and a plurality of interdigital electrodes ~~transducers~~ arranged on the piezoelectric substrate.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A ladder filter according to Claim 42, wherein the each resonator is a piezoelectric thin-film resonator including a substrate provided with one of an opening and a recess, and a vibrating portion defined by a piezoelectric thin film, including at least one layer and arranged above the opening or the recess, that is sandwiched by at least a pair of electrodes.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A branching filter comprising the ladder filter as set forth in Claim 42.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A communication apparatus including the ladder filter as set forth in Claim 42.

Claim 11 (original): A communication apparatus including the branching filter as set forth in Claim 9.

Claim 12 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 3, wherein the pitch of the first series arm resonator is different from the pitch of the second series arm resonator.

Claim 13 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 3, further comprising a package, wherein the inductor connected in parallel to the first series arm resonator is arranged in the package.

Claim 14 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 3, wherein each resonator is a one-terminal pair surface acoustic wave resonator including a piezoelectric substrate and a plurality of interdigital electrodes arranged on the piezoelectric substrate.

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Claim 15 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 3, wherein each resonator is a piezoelectric thin-film resonator including a substrate provided with one of an opening and a recess, and a vibrating portion defined by a piezoelectric thin film, including at least one layer and arranged above the opening or the recess, that is sandwiched by at least a pair of electrodes.

Claim 16 (new): A branching filter comprising the ladder filter as set forth in Claim 3.

Claim 17 (new): A communication apparatus including the ladder filter as set forth in Claim 3.

Claim 18 (new): A communication apparatus including the branching filter as set forth in Claim 16.

Claim 19 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 4, wherein the pitch of the first series arm resonator is different from the pitch of the second series arm resonator.

Claim 20 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 4, further comprising a package, wherein the inductor connected in parallel to the first series arm resonator is arranged in the package.

Claim 21 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 4, wherein each resonator is a one-terminal pair surface acoustic wave resonator including a piezoelectric substrate and a plurality of interdigital electrodes arranged on the piezoelectric substrate.

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Claim 22 (new): A ladder filter according to Claim 4, wherein each resonator is a piezoelectric thin-film resonator including a substrate provided with one of an opening and a recess, and a vibrating portion defined by a piezoelectric thin film, including at least one layer and arranged above the opening or the recess, that is sandwiched by at least a pair of electrodes.

Claim 23 (new): A branching filter comprising the ladder filter as set forth in Claim 4.

Claim 24 (new): A communication apparatus including the ladder filter as set forth in Claim 4.

Claim 25 (new): A communication apparatus including the branching filter as set forth in Claim 23.